GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2012
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
CONSUMPTION OF ALLOPATHIC MEDICINES FOR INTOXICATION
Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some allopathic medicines are being consumed for the purpose of intoxication in the country;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to take any concrete step to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Reports have been received, especially from North Eastern States, that some prescription drugs like cough syrups containing Codeine and Buprenorphine, Dextropoxyphene formulations are being used for the purpose of intoxication.

(b) & (c): The following steps have been taken by Dte.GHS under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to check the misuse of these drugs.

(i) Codeine:
Codeine is a Schedule 'H' drug in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. Considering the abuse potential of the formulations containing codeine, the sale of Phensedyl cough linctus, Corex syrup and other habit forming drugs is restricted and these drugs available in the pharmacies are sold only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

To curb the misuse of these habit forming formulations, State Govts in North Eastern States have issued orders on the supply of these preparations permitting only limited quantities of these drugs to be kept by the stockists and by the retailers at a time in their shops.

Further, to curb the possible misuse of the cough linctus containing Codeine formulations in India, manufacturers have been directed to revise the composition. The cough linctus preparations now marketed in India has the following revised composition.

Each 5 ml contains:

Codeine phospate I.P. - 10 mg

Chlorpheniramine Maleate I.P. - 4 mg

(ii) Buprenorphine:

Buprenorphine is an opiod analgesic and preparations containing the drug are required to be sold only against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners.

Keeping in view the growing trend of abuse of Buprenorphine, the following measures to curb the misuse of these drugs have been taken:-

(a) The manufacturers of this drug have been asked to have minimum stockist outlets for sale of Buprenorphine formulations.

(b) The manufacturers have been asked to put the warning "the drug has potential for abuse and should be sold and used under strict

medical supervision" in red colour on the label and carton of the formulation.

(c) The manufacturers have also been asked to consider the marketing of a combination of Bupreorphine with Nalaxone to reduce the abuse potentiality of Buprenorphine.

(d) DCG(I) has issued suitable instructions to the State Licensing Authorities requesting them to issue instructions to the Inspectorate staff to prevent the easy availability of the drug Buprenorphine through retail outlets and also to ensure that the drug marketed under different brand names are supplied only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Further a meeting of the Secretaries of Health of various North Eastern States and also States of Punjab and Delhi was held on 11th November 2003 to discuss the issue concerning reported misuse of certain drug formulations containing Narcotics and Psychotropic drugs especially in North Eastern States and Punjab and Delhi and various measures to curb the illicit trafficking of these drugs, were suggested.